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# Introduction to Control and Some Instrumentation

Invited Presentation  
Introduction to Mechanical Engineering

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AUB Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

# Famous Canoe Example

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*Fig. 2.* An unstable canoe.



*Fig. 3.* A canoe with an outrigger.



# What is Control

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To construct systems that **accurately**  
perform their intended desired tasks  
despite large **uncertainties**



# Why is Control Needed?

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Disturbances & Uncertainties  
External and Internal



# Major Objectives of a Controller

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- Improved Performance - Specifications
- Lower Error (different types)
- Robustness (under different conditions)

Balance the 3 Objectives

Importance of objective is application dependent



# Control System Goals

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- Regulation
  - thermostat, flow of fluids
- Tracking
  - robot movement, adjust TCP window to network bandwidth
- Optimization
  - best mix of chemicals, minimize response times



# Why Control Theory

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- Systematic approach to analysis and design
  - Select controller based on desired characteristics
- Predict system response to some input
  - Speed of response (e.g., adjust to workload changes)
  - Oscillations (variability)



# Typical Mechatronic products

Robots

Disk drives (video and CD)

Cameras and camcorders

Process controllers

Avionics

Appliances

Smart weapons

Power tools

"Electronics Vehicle"

engine controls

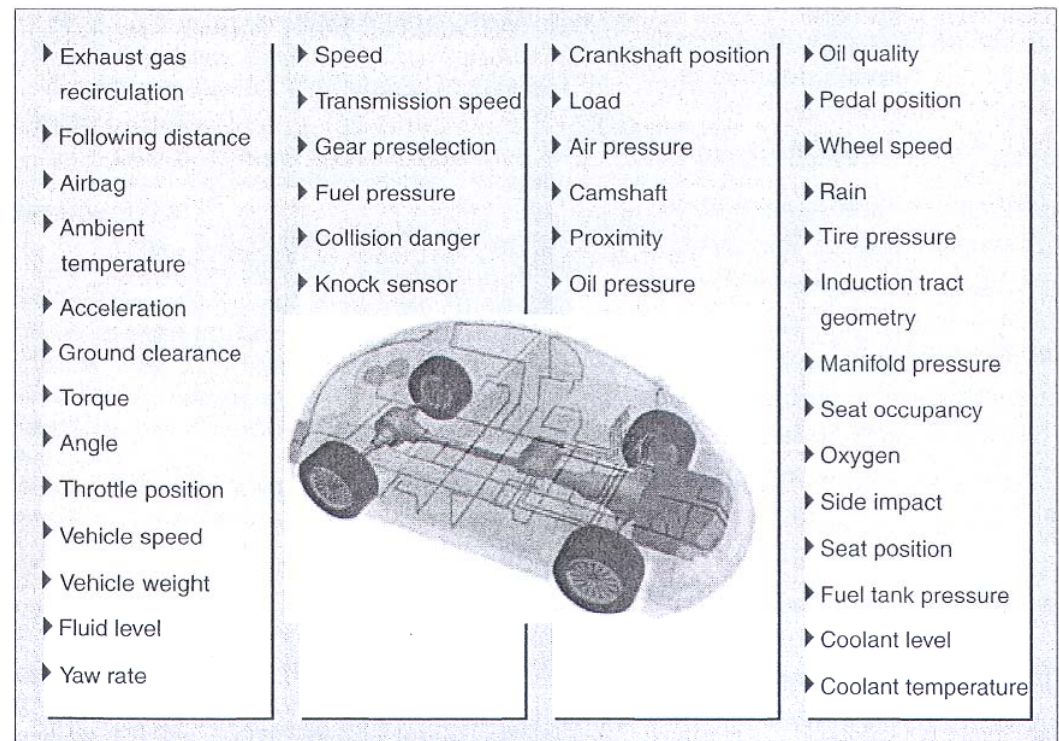
anti-lock braking systems

active suspension systems

collision avoidance

electronic muffler

navigation, etc.

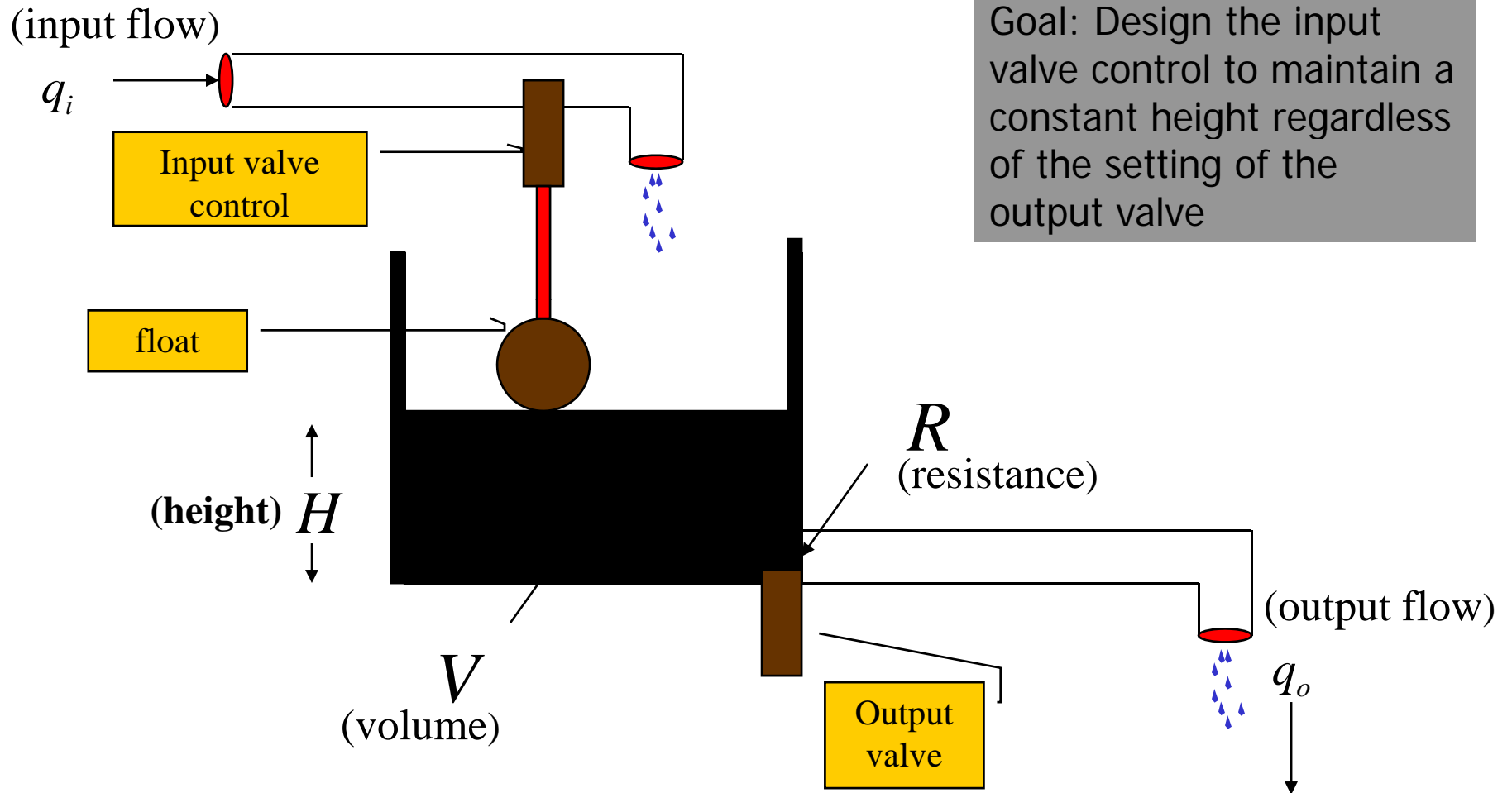


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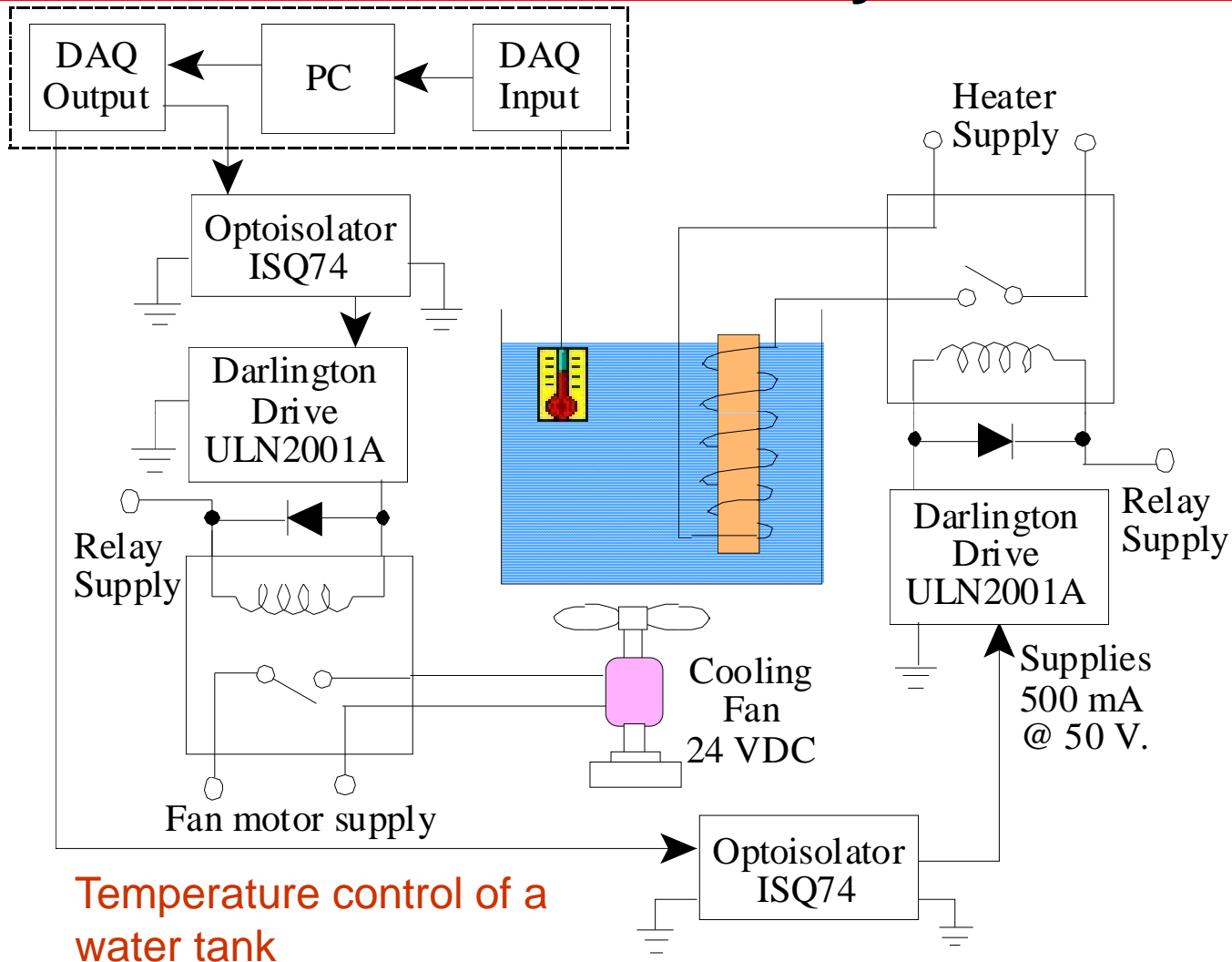
<http://www.hybridcenter.org/hybrid-center-how-hybrid-cars-work-under-the-hood-2.html>



# Example: Liquid Level System

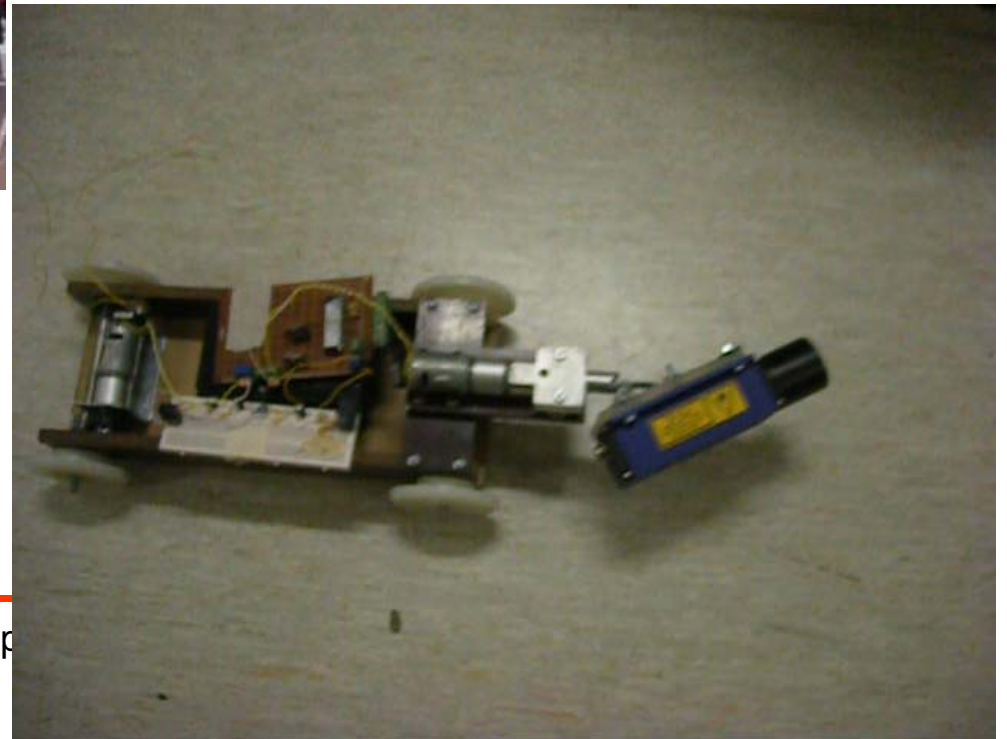


# ON-OFF Control System



# Pipe Inspection Robot

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# HRP-1S: AIST Controller drives a Honda Humanoid Robot

National Institute of Advanced Industrial  
Science and Technology (AIST)

Kenji KANEKO  
Fumio KANEHIRO  
Kiyoshi FUJIWARA  
Kazuhito YOKOI  
Shuuji KAJITA  
Hirohisa HIRUKAWA





# Videos

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[ASIMO Dancing](#)

[Kung Fu Robots](#)



# Brief Early History of Control

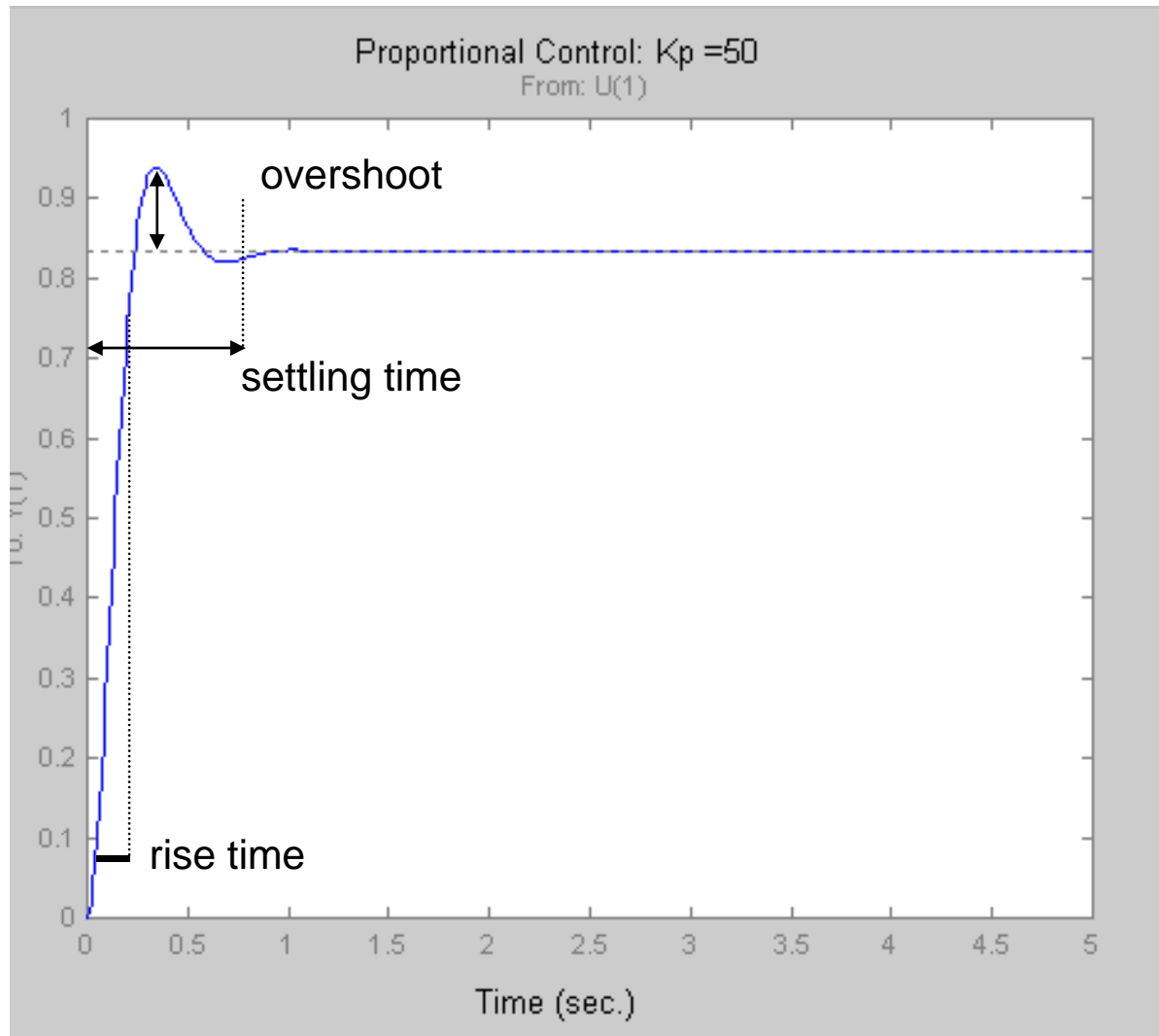
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- 270 BC Greek Ktesibios invented a *float regulator* for a water clock
- In 800 through 1200 various Arab engineers used float regulators for water clocks and other applications
- The industrial revolution brought the need for automatic control
- In the mid 1800's mathematics was first used to analyze feedback control systems





# Desired Output: Specifications - Standards



↑  
↓  
steady-state error

**ss error** -- difference from the system's desired value

**overshoot** -- % of final value exceeded at first oscillation

**rise time** -- time to span from 10% to 90% of the final value

**settling time** -- time to reach within 2% of the final value

How can we eliminate the steady-state error?



# Classification of Control Systems

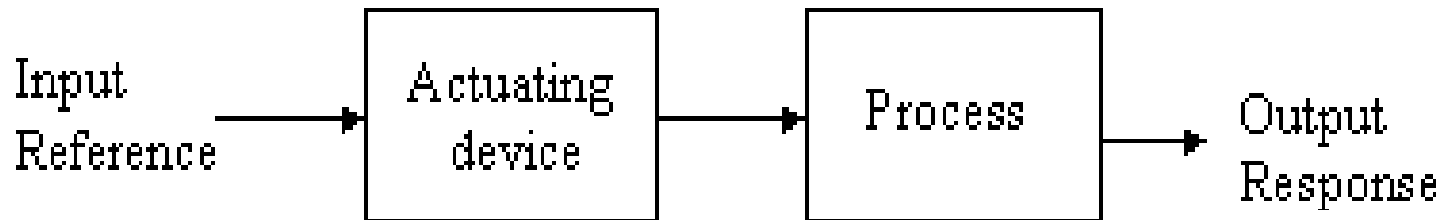
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- Open Loop
- Feedback Control
- Learning Control



# Open Loop Control

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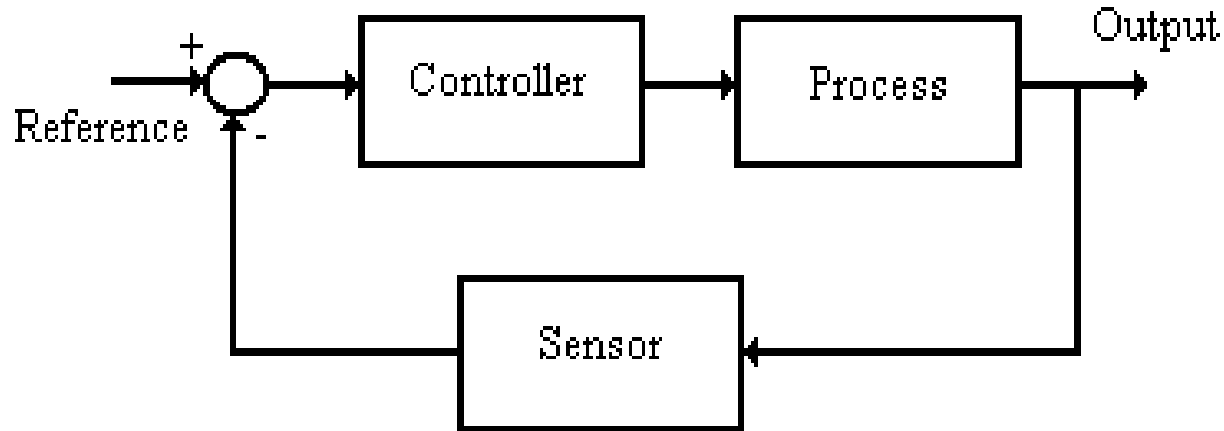
- Problem when external variations (load) or internal variations (friction) comes into effect
- A very accurate model of the system is needed



# Closed Loop Control

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- This setup will have a good disturbance rejection
- Closed loop control is used when unpredictable disturbances are present



# Mathematical Modeling

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- Controlled devices are of electrical, mechanical, biological ... nature
- A math model is needed describing behavior of the device in terms of input/output relations
- Model can be obtained theoretically
- Model can be obtained experimentally



# Approaches to System Modelling

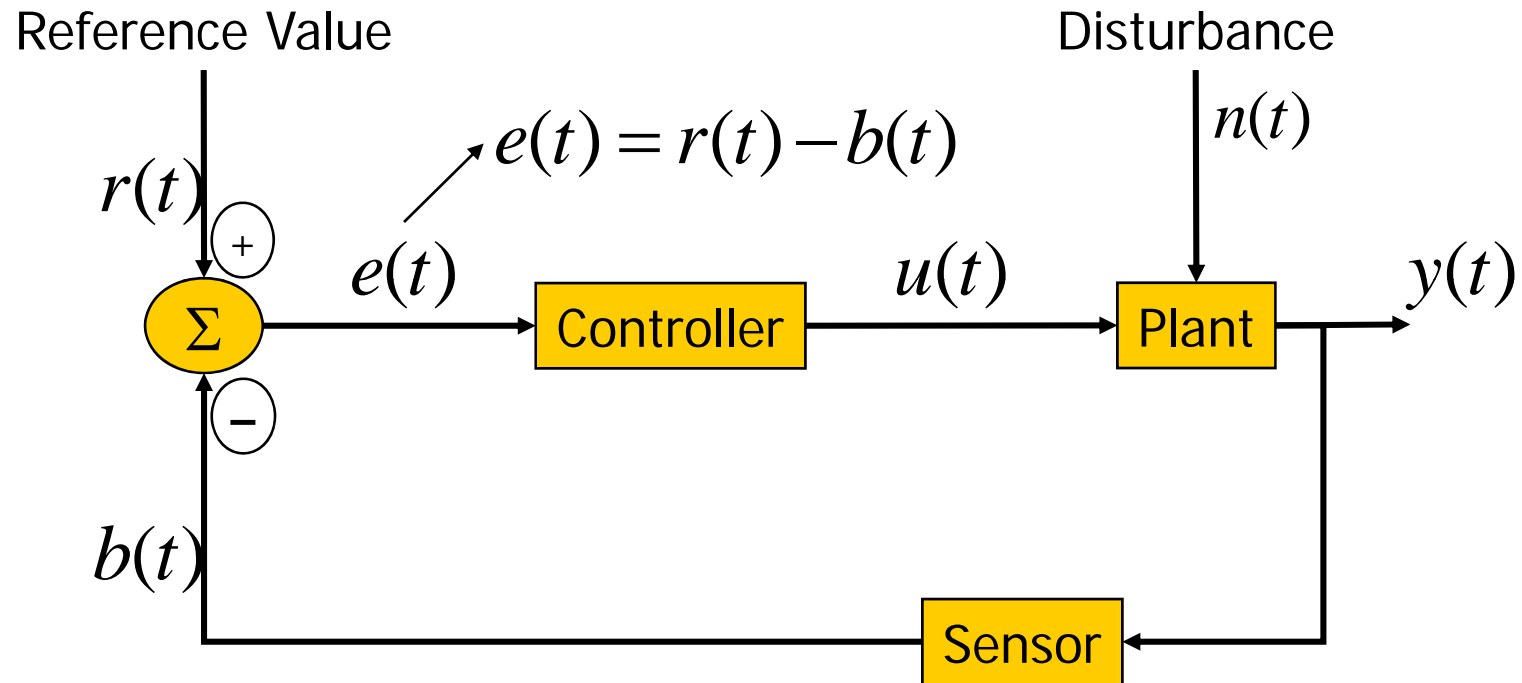
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- First Principles
  - Based on known laws
    - Physics, Queuing theory
  - Balance between accuracy and complexity
- Experimental (System ID)
  - Statistical/data-driven models
  - Requires data
  - Is there a good “training set”?



# Feedback Control System

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# Learning Control or Intelligent Control

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- Humans can control highly complicated systems without the need for a mathematical model at all
- The goal of intelligent control is to emulate the behavior and structure of human expertise-knowledge.
- Uses various Artificial Intelligence approaches
  - Fuzzy logic
  - Neural networks (NN)
  - Machine learning
  - Genetic algorithms





# Control Areas

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- Theoretical
  - Controller design – Circuit/Algorithm
  - Modeling
  - Path planning
  - Intelligence
- Software
  - Interface, programming
- Hardware
  - **Instrumentation**
  - Processors
  - Control circuits
  - Actuators
- Integration
  - Mechatronics



# Measurements

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A measurement is the estimation of magnitudes of quantities relative to particular standardized quantities, called units.

Example:

Mass:



Standardized quantity  
for mass:  
International prototype  
of the kilogram

0.5 Kg

magnitude

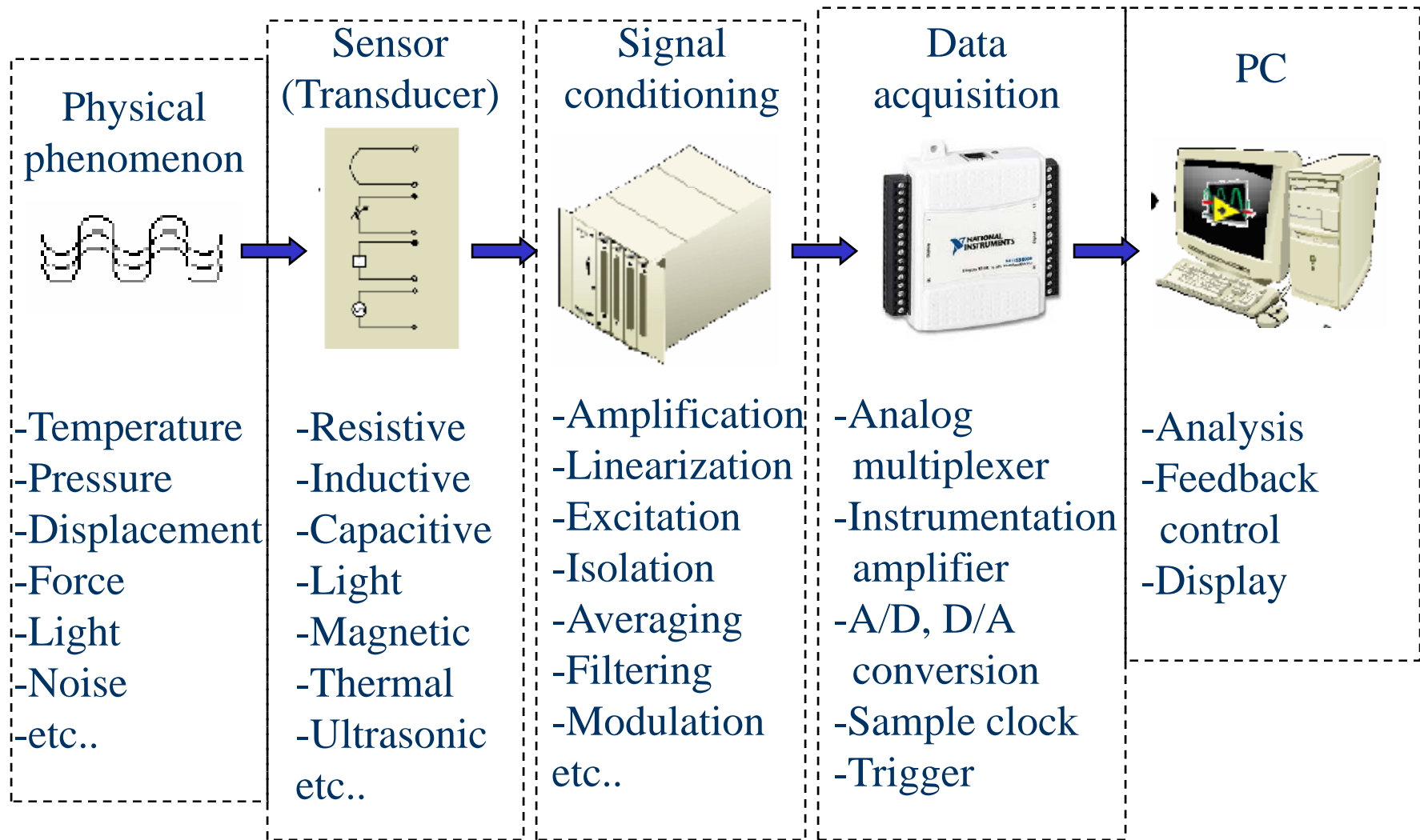
unit

<http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units/index.html>

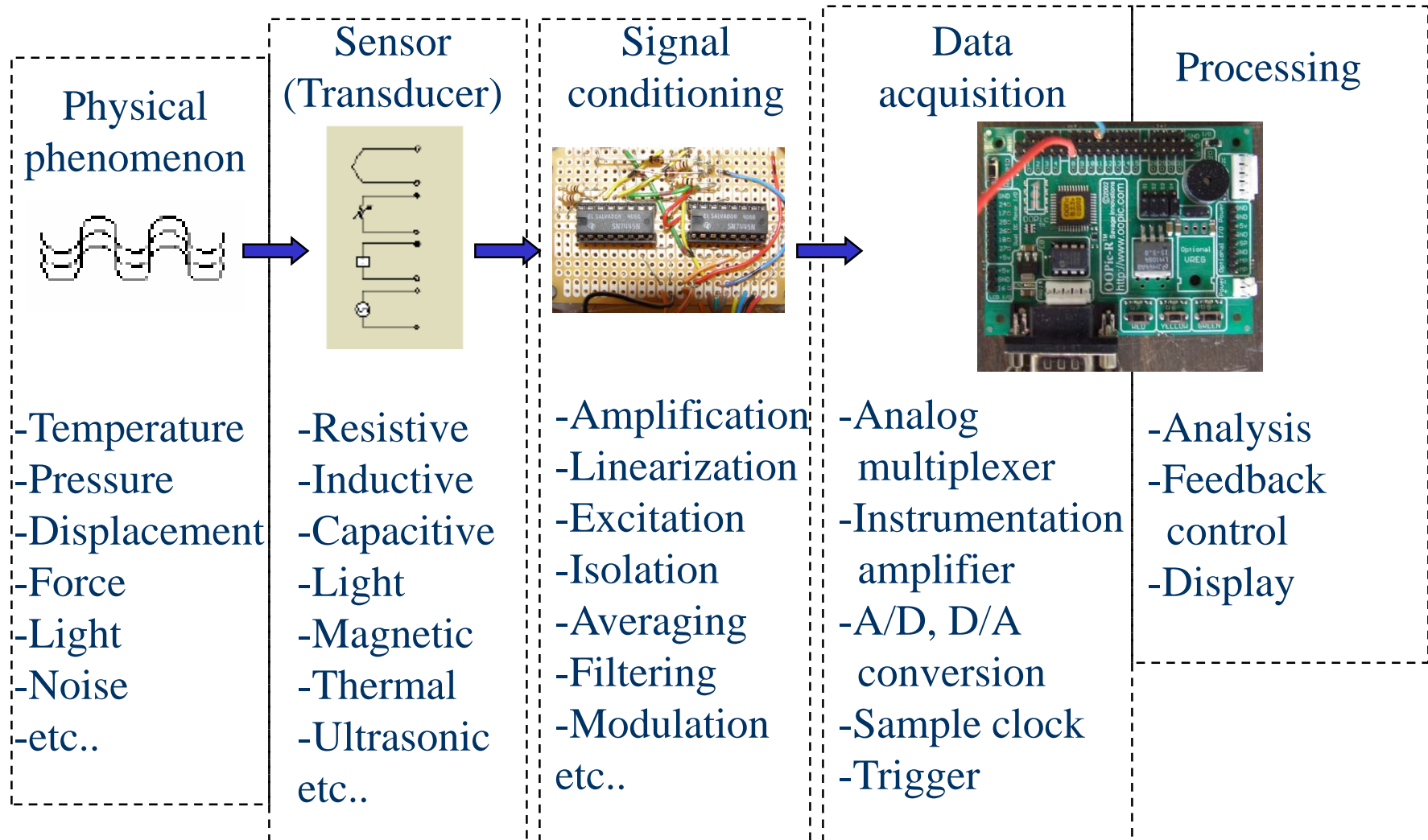
National Institute of Standards and Technology



# PC-based Measurement System



# Embedded Measurement System



# Transducers

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- A transducer is a device that converts a signal from one physical form to a corresponding signal having a different physical form
- A transducer is an energy converter
- Different Types:
  - Mechanical
  - Thermal
  - Magnetic
  - Electric
  - Chemical
  - Radiation



# Instrumentation Areas

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Instrumentation is an engineering discipline that involves the study of:

- Signal conditioning
- Material properties
- Fluidics
- Heat transfer
- Mechanical properties
- Computer interface
- Electronics
- Modeling



# AUB Courses Offered

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- Undergraduate
  - EECE460 Control Systems
  - EECE460L Control Systems Laboratory
  - EECE461 Instrumentation (Includes Lab)
  - EECE462 Industrial Control (Soon)
  - MECH431 Control Systems
  - MECH431L Control Systems Laboratory
  - MECH430 Instrumentation & Measurements
  - MECH530 Mechatronics System Design
- Senior/Graduate
  - EECE660 System Analysis and Design
  - EECE661 Robotics
  - EECE662 Optimal Control
  - EECE663 System Identification
  - EECE664 Fuzzy Sets, Logic and Applications
  - EECE665 Adaptive Control
  - EECE 692 Nonlinear Control
- **POPULAR FINAL YEAR PROJECT AREA**



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# Questions?





# Sources

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- Some of the slides in this presentation taken from:
  - Joseph Hellerstein And Sujay Parekh, “An Introduction to Control Theory with Applications to Computer Science”, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center.
  - Jizhong Xiao, “Manipulator Control” Department of Electrical Engineering, City College of New York.
  - JM Geremia, “An Introduction to Control Theory From Classical to Quantum Applications”, course notes, 2003.
  - Ahmad Smali, Fouad Mrad, “Applied Mechatronics,” Oxford University Press, New York, Feb 2007

